

Application No.: 10/730344

Case No.: 59351US002

Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1.(currently amended) A ceramic orthodontic appliance comprising:

a ceramic body having an elongated channel; and

an archwire slot liner received in the channel, wherein the liner includes an occlusal section having a certain thickness, a lingual section having a certain thickness and a gingival section having a certain thickness, wherein the thickness of the lingual section is at least 250 percent of the thickness of at least one of the gingival section and the occlusal section, and wherein each of the occlusal section, the lingual section and the gingival section is bonded directly to the ceramic body, wherein the liner is an assembly that comprises an outer elongated member having a generally overall "U"-shaped configuration in longitudinally transverse cross-sectional view, and wherein the assembly also includes an inner elongated member that is received in the outer member.

2. (original) A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 1 wherein the thickness of the lingual section is at least 250 percent of the thickness of each of the gingival section and the occlusal section.

3. (original) A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 1 wherein the thickness of the lingual section is at least 400 percent of the thickness of at least one of the occlusal section and the gingival section.

4. (original) A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 1 wherein the liner is coupled to the body by an adhesive.

5. (original) A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 1 wherein the liner is connected to the body by a braze material.

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6. (original) A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 1 wherein the liner is connected to the body by a glaze material.
7. (original) A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 1 wherein the liner is an assembly that comprises an outer elongated member having a generally overall "U"-shaped configuration in longitudinally transverse cross-sectional view, and wherein the assembly also includes an inner elongated member that is received in the outer member.
8. (currently amended) A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim ~~[[7]]~~ 1 wherein the inner member has a generally overall "U"-shaped configuration.
9. (currently amended) A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim ~~[[7]]~~ 1 wherein the outer member includes a lingual wall having a central notch.
10. (currently amended) A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim ~~[[7]]~~ 1 wherein the assembly also includes at least one post located between the outer member and the inner member, and wherein the post extends outwardly past the ceramic body.
11. (original) A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 10 wherein the appliance includes at least one latch extending about the post for connecting an archwire to the appliance.
12. (original) A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 11 wherein the latch comprises a self-releasing clip.
13. (original) A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 1 wherein the appliance is a bracket.
14. (original) A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 1 wherein the body has a mesial section, a distal section and an elongated channel extending generally in an occlusal-

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gingival direction between the mesial section and the distal section, and wherein the liner includes at least one notch aligned with the channel.

15. (original) A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 14 wherein at least one notch is located on the lingual section of the liner.

16. (original) A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 14 wherein at least one notch is located on at least one of the gingival section and the occlusal section of the liner.

17. (original) A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 14 wherein the liner includes three notches, and wherein each notch is located on a corresponding one of the gingival section, the occlusal section and the lingual section.

18. (original) A ceramic orthodontic appliance according to claim 1 wherein the thickness of the occlusal section is approximately equal to the thickness of the gingival section.

19-25. (canceled)

26. (currently amended) ~~An orthodontic combination comprising:~~
~~— an orthodontic appliance including a ceramic body having a first elongated channel extending in a generally mesial-distal direction and a second elongated channel extending in a generally occlusal-lingual direction, the appliance also including an archwire slot liner received in the first channel, wherein the liner includes an occlusal section having a certain thickness, a gingival section having a certain thickness and a lingual section having a thickness that is greater than the thickness of the occlusal section and the gingival section, wherein the lingual section of the liner includes at least one notch aligned with the second channel to define a passageway and wherein the at least one notch has an open lingual side; and~~
~~a vertical auxiliary device having a portion received in the passageway.~~

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27. (currently amended) An orthodontic ~~combination~~ appliance according to claim 26 wherein the liner includes a lingual section, and wherein at least one notch is located on the lingual section.

28. (currently amended) An orthodontic ~~combination~~ appliance according to claim 27 wherein the liner includes a gingival section and an occlusal section, ~~and wherein at least one notch is located on at least one of the gingival section and the occlusal section~~ that also include at least one notch.

29. (canceled)

30. (currently amended) An orthodontic ~~combination~~ appliance according to claim 26 wherein the body has a mesial section and a distal section, wherein the second channel extends between the mesial section and the distal section, and wherein the mesial section and the distal section can be squeezed together toward the second channel in order to enable the appliance to be debonded from a tooth.